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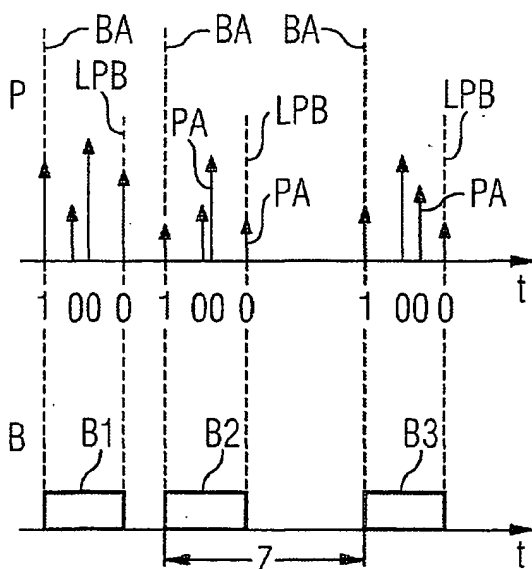
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(54) Title: A METHOD FOR AND APPARATUS FOR AGGREGATING INCOMING PACKETS INTO OPTICAL FOR AN OP-  
TICAL BURST SWITCHED NETWORK



(57) Abstract: Incoming packets are aggregated into opti-  
cal bursts in an edge node of an Optical Burst Switched  
Network. This comprises the following steps. Storing  
the incoming packets to generate an optical burst. As-  
sociating each incoming packet with a generated random  
binary digit with a probability for a first and a second  
value of the binary digit. A packet with a binary digit  
having the first value indicates a transition between opti-  
cal bursts. Sending the optical burst with the aggregated  
packets when a transition is indicated by the first value.